

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A window assembly, comprising:
a fixed member;
a sliding window that is slidably movable relative to said fixed member;
a catch housing secured to the fixed member;
a latch housing secured to the sliding window; and,
a latch assembly movably secured to said latch housing and releasably secured to said catch housing, said latch assembly comprising:

first and second latch arms, each of said first and second latch arms being biased into engagement with said catch housing and including a first actuated end, a second latching end, and an elongated body portion extending between said first actuated end and said second latching end;~~each of said first and second latch arms having a pivot pin extending through said elongated body portions so as to pivotally secure the latch arms to said latch housing;~~

a first pivot pin extending through the elongated body portion of said first latch arm to pivotally secure the first latch arm to the latch housing;

a second pivot pin extending through the elongated body portion of said second latch arm to pivotally secure the second latch arm to the latch housing and,

a latch actuator, said latch actuator being movable relative to said latch housing and into engagement with the actuated ends of said first and second latch arms so as to ~~pivot said~~ pivotally move said latch arms about said pivot pins and thereby move the latching ends of said first and second latch arms out of engagement with said catch housing ~~and thereby~~ so as to permit said sliding window to be slidably moved away from said fixed member, said latch actuator being slidably secured to said latch housing and movable relatively toward and away from said catch housing.

6. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 5, wherein said catch housing includes a rear wall secured to said fixed member, a front wall, an upper wall, and a lower wall, and wherein said front, rear, upper, and lower walls cooperate to define an end opening through which the latch arms extend.

7. (Previously Presented) A window assembly, comprising:

a fixed member;

a sliding window that is slidably movable relative to said fixed member;

a catch housing secured to the fixed member, said catch housing including a plurality of walls, and wherein at least two opposing walls of the catch housing define slotted openings;

a latch housing secured to the sliding window; and,

a latch assembly movably secured to said latch housing and releasably secured to said catch housing, said latch assembly comprising:

first and second latch arms, each of said first and second latch arms being biased into engagement with said catch housing and including a first actuated end, a second latching end, and an elongated body portion extending between said first actuated end and said second latching end; and,

a latch actuator, said latch actuator being slidably movable relative to said latch housing into engagement with the actuated ends of said first and second latch arms so as to pivot said first and second latch arms out of engagement with said catch housing and thereby retract said latching ends from said slotted openings in the catch housing and permit said sliding window to be slidably moved away from said fixed member.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 7, further comprising a biasing spring associated with said latch arms and serving to bias said latch arms' latching ends into engagement with said catch housing.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) The window assembly according to claim 5, wherein said latch housing includes rails that guide the latch actuator as the latch actuator is slidably moved.

12. (Previously Presented) A latch assembly for a slidable window, comprising:

a catch housing adapted to be secured to a stationary member and defining an end opening and a pair of opposed slotted openings, each of said slotted openings being at least partially defined by an edge surface;

a latch housing adapted to be secured to the slidable window; and,

a latch assembly, said latch assembly being received within said latch housing and being releasably secured to said catch housing, said latch assembly comprising:

first and second latch arms, each latch arm having a first actuated end, an elongated body portion, and a second latching end, wherein said actuated ends are received within said latch housing, said body portions project from said latch housing, and said latching ends are disposed outside of said latch housing, said latch arms being pivotally secured to said latch housing and being biased so as to urge said latching ends through an associated one of said slotted openings and into engagement with said an associated edge surface; and,

a latch actuator, said latch actuator being slidably secured to said latch housing and slidably movable, in a direction relatively away from said catch housing, against the actuated end of each latch arm so as to pivot the latching ends of each latch arm out of said slotted openings and out of engagement with said edge surfaces so as to release said sliding window from said fixed window.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The latch assembly according to claim 12, wherein said catch housing includes a rear wall secured to said fixed member, a front wall, an upper wall, a lower wall, and an end wall, and wherein said front, rear, upper, and lower walls cooperate to define the end opening through which the first and second latch arms extend and wherein said upper and lower walls define the opposed slotted openings.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The latch assembly according to claim 12, further comprising a biasing spring engaged with said actuated ends of said latch arms and serving to bias said latching ends of said latch arms away from each other, through said slotted openings and into engagement with said edge surfaces catch housing.

17. (Currently Amended) The latch assembly according to claim 12, further

comprising a first pivot pin extending through the elongated body portion of said first latch arm and a second pivot pin extending through the elongated body portion of said second latch arm wherein each of said latch arms further comprises a pivot pin that extends through the associated latch arm elongated body portion and wherein said first pivot pin and second pivot pin are is received in said latch housing, said pivot pins extending through the associated latch arm elongated body portion and first pivot pin defining an axis about which the associated said first latch arm rotates and said second pivot pin defining an axis about which said second latch arm rotates.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a sliding window, said sliding window being laterally movable between a closed position adjacent a fixed member and an open position spaced from said fixed member, comprising the steps of:

providing a latch housing affixed to said sliding window;

providing a catch housing affixed to said fixed member, said catch housing having a pair of opposed walls that define slotted openings;

providing a latch assembly, said latch assembly being operable to releasably secure said latch housing to said catch housing and including first and second latch arms and a latch actuator, each of said latch arms having an actuated end and a latching end that are interconnected by an elongated body portion, said actuated ends being received within said latch housing while said elongated body portions project from said latch housing such that said latching ends are disposed outside of said latch housing, said latch actuator being slidably secured to said latch housing at

a location intermediate said latch arms and being movable laterally relative to said latch housing and said catch housing and against said latch arm actuated end so as to move said latch arm latching end out of engagement with said catch housing, and wherein, when said latching ends are engaged with said catch housing, comprising the sequential steps of:

a) applying lateral force to said latch actuator and thereby moving said latch actuator laterally away from said catch housing while said latch housing remains stationary;

b) engaging said latch actuator with each of the actuated ends of the latch arms and thereby moving said actuated ends relatively away from one another;

c) pivoting each of said latch arms about an axis so as to move each of said latching ends out of engagement with said catch housing; and,

d) applying further lateral force to said latching actuator so as to move said window laterally away from said fixed member.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein when said latching ends of said latch arms are disengaged from said catch housing, comprising the sequential steps of:

e) applying lateral force to said latch actuator so as to move said latch actuator laterally toward said catch housing while said latch housing remains stationary;

f) applying further lateral force to said latch actuator and thereby causing said latch actuator and said latch housing to move laterally toward said catch housing;

g) inserting said latching ends of said latch arms into said catch housing;

h) engaging the latching ends of said latch arms with said catch housing and thereby causing said latching end to slide over an interior surface of said catch housing;

i) snapping the latching ends of said latch arms into the slotted openings formed in said catch housing to thereby engage said latching end with said catch housing.

20. (Currently Amended) The window assembly according to claim 5, wherein said latch actuator is disposed between said first and second latch ~~arms~~pivot pins.

21. (Currently Amended) The window assembly according to claim ~~4~~5, wherein said ~~at least one latch arm protrude~~first and second latch arms protrude from said latch housing.

22. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 5, wherein said catch housing includes upper and lower walls, and where said catch housing upper and lower walls define the slotted openings that receive the latching ends of the first and second latch arms.

23. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 5, wherein said latch actuator is slidably secured to the latch housing at a location relatively between said first and second latch arms, and is adapted for linear movement into and out of engagement with the actuated ends of the latch arms.

24. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 7, wherein each of said first and second latch arms are pivotally mounted to said latch housing via a pivot pin extending through said elongated body portions.

25. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 24, wherein said latch actuator is slidably secured to the latch housing at a location relatively between said first and second latch arms, and is adapted for linear movement into and out of engagement with the actuated ends of the latch arms.

26. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 25, wherein said catch housing includes a rear wall secured to said fixed member, a front wall, an upper wall, and a lower wall, and wherein said front, rear, upper, and lower walls cooperate to define an end opening through which the latch arms extend.

27. (Previously Presented) The window assembly according to claim 7, wherein said catch housing includes a rear wall secured to said fixed member, a front wall, an upper wall, and a lower wall, and wherein said front, rear, upper, and lower walls cooperate to define an end opening through which the latch arms extend.